United Nations A/C.5/53/SR.68

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 August 1999

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 68th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 22 July 1999, at 4 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Abelian ..... (Armenia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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99-81244 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Agenda item 170: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/53/238 and Add.1, A/53/1019 and A/C.5/53/L.79)

Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.79

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/53/L.79, which he had submitted following informal consultations. In paragraph 12, the word "and" had been inadvertently omitted before the words "to take action on it". Also, the preambular verb "recognizing" should be replaced in one of the preambular paragraphs in order to avoid its repetition.

2. **Mr. Salamat** (Islamic Republic of Iran) suggested that the verb "recognizing" in the third preambular paragraph should be replaced by "acknowledging".

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **Mr. Eldahry** (Saudi Arabia) proposed that the expression "States permanent members of the Security Council" in the penultimate preambular paragraph should be amended to read "permanent member States of the Security Council".

5. **The Chairman** said that the expression "States permanent members of the Security Council" was standard language which had been used consistently in previous resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations. He saw no reason why the Committee should now seek to change it.

6. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) said that the penultimate preambular paragraph of the draft resolution referred specifically to General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV), paragraph 1 (d) of which used the words "permanent members of the Security Council". He therefore suggested that the word "States" should be deleted from the draft text and that future resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping missions should use the same form of words.

7. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to delete the word "States" from the penultimate preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire) drew attention to the lack of clarity in the French expression "*la sûreté et la sécurité*", which was used to render the English "safety and security" in paragraph 10. He would welcome the comments of representatives of other French-speaking countries.

10. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) said that the expression "safety and security" occurred frequently in General Assembly resolutions and also appeared in the title of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing with the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

11. **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) said that the expression used in the French text had been frequently used in other General Assembly resolutions on the safety and security of United Nations personnel.

12. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, although his delegation was still not entirely satisfied with the French expression, it was prepared to be flexible.

13. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt paragraph 10 of the draft resolution without change.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/53/L.79, as orally amended, was adopted.*

16. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union reserved the right to express its view on the draft resolution just adopted during the plenary Assembly.

17. **Mr. Herrera** (Mexico) said that the Committee's work would have been simpler if it had received more comprehensive information from the Secretariat on the justification of the commitment authority sought for the financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Nevertheless, and in spite of the budgetary constraints facing his country, Mexico supported the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority of up to $200 million.

18. In order to enable the General Assembly to take timely action to authorize the commitment sought, the Secretary-General should submit the report requested in paragraph 12 of the draft text by early October 1999.

19. **Ms. Duschner** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that their delegations had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because they fully supported UNMIK. It was important to ensure that the Mission had sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate effectively and efficiently and it remained the view of their delegations that Member States should be fully assessed at the same time as the General Assembly granted the commitment authority requested.

20. While mindful of the unusual circumstances of UNMIK, their delegations were concerned at the lack of

details regarding its costs and looked forward to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report on the financing of the Mission and on the utilization of the resources which had been approved in the draft resolution.

21. **Ms. Min Qin Sun** (China) said that, three months previously, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), under the leadership of the United States of America and without the authorization of the Security Council, had launched a military operation against a sovereign State, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which had caused thousands of casualties and displaced nearly a million persons. Factories, bridges, hospitals and civilian facilities had been devastated. There was no legal or moral reason why the serious consequences of that aggression should be shouldered by others. The Secretary-General had committed substantial financial resources even before the Committee had received a detailed financial report. The work of the Committee, which was a technical body, would have been greatly facilitated if the Secretary-General had provided sufficient information. She hoped that the same failure would not occur again and that the Committee would be even-handed in its treatment of any existing or future peacekeeping missions.

22. Although her delegation was not satisfied with the draft resolution, it had taken into account the overall situation and the concerns of certain delegations and had made a great effort to join the consensus. She hoped that a similar spirit would prevail in the future work of the Committee.

23. **Mr. Odaga-Jalomayo** (Uganda) said that his country, which had had its share of suffering, sympathized with the problems faced by the people of Kosovo and was pleased to see that the United Nations was beginning to play a central role in Kosovo, particularly with regard to humanitarian assistance and the resettlement of displaced persons.

24. He welcomed the decision that had just been taken to provide funds for the establishment of the Mission in Kosovo but was concerned that the decision had not been based on any empirical justifications. The lack of adequate information from the Secretariat had prevented the Committee from taking an informed position.

25. During the informal consultations, his delegation had advocated providing the Mission with funding that was technically justifiable for a period of three months until the Secretary-General submitted a detailed budget. Unfortunately, that suggestion had not met with consensus among delegations. Realizing that the mood within the Committee had been to provide the Secretary-General with as much money as he requested, regardless of the technical justification, his delegation had proposed funding in an amount well above what the Secretary-General had requested, but that proposal too had not met with consensus.

26. His delegation agreed with the assertion by the Tanzanian representative that logic was no longer a guiding principle in international affairs. Over the years, the Committee had gradually become politicized and had taken decisions based more on emotion than on technical justification. That was a dangerous trend which undermined the credibility of the Committee. His delegation, however, welcomed the positive and generous attitude which a number of Member States had displayed towards the financing of the Mission and looked forward to equally generous treatment of all future peacekeeping missions, particularly those in Africa. His delegation attached particular importance to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution just adopted and looked forward to their full implementation.

27. **Mr. Saha** (India) said that the General Assembly required detailed information if it was to come to a more coordinated and constructive view of the financing of the Mission than the Committee had achieved. The Secretariat should note in particular the clear and unambiguous language of paragraphs 3 and 9 of the draft resolution, which emphasized that all future and existing peacekeeping missions should be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements and that no peacekeeping mission should be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions.

28. There was absolutely no room to interpret the language of those paragraphs other than literally and he requested the Chairman to convey his remarks to the Secretariat officials concerned.

29. **Ms. Buergo Rodríguez** (Cuba) expressed her delegation's deep regret that the Committee had been required to conduct protracted negotiations on a matter of great political sensitivity without adequate information, especially since it was not the first time that the Committee's work had been made more difficult by such shortcomings.

30. Her delegation was concerned at the Committee's use of double standards and hoped that, in keeping with paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, all future issues would be dealt with purely on their merits.

31. The decisions adopted in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution in no way set a precedent for the granting of commitment authority with assessment, since the Committee had not been provided with the necessary information. Indeed, the figures with which the Committee

had had to work had been without rationale or substantiation and flew in the face of logic. That situation must be rectified before the Committee again took up consideration of the Mission's financing, and preferably by early October 1999.

32. Her delegation was concerned at the manner in which the negotiations had been conducted by certain delegations, which had exceeded the bounds of the Committee's normal decision-making procedure. In the light of that experience, the Committee should review its procedures and working methods at the earliest opportunity.

33. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya) said that the Mission was a proper continuation of the Organization's role in and responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter. His delegation therefore strongly supported the views which had been expressed by the representative of Uganda on the need for equal treatment of peacekeeping missions, particularly those in Africa, and therefore welcomed the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution, which called for equal treatment and adequate resources for all future and existing peacekeeping missions. His delegation aligned itself with the statement made by the representative of India concerning the Secretariat's obligation to abide faithfully by the clear and unambiguous language of the draft resolution.

34. He looked forward to the submission of full budget estimates for the Mission by early October 1999 and trusted that in future members of the Committee would not cross the bounds of amity and professionalism in the conduct of negotiations.

35. **Mr. Stevčevski** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) welcomed the consensus which had been achieved on the draft resolution because it was particularly important for the Committee to take into account the urgency of the situation in Kosovo and the need to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). UNMIK, which had not only local but regional and global implications, was not an ordinary United Nations peacekeeping mission and its success or failure would have an important effect on the future of the United Nations.

36. In discharging its duties under resolution 1244 (1999), the Mission should endeavour to remain aware at all times of the situation in Kosovo's neighbours and, where possible, utilize the capacity of those States to meet its procurement needs.

37. His delegation was of the view that the amount requested in the draft resolution was very modest and that a more realistic request would be submitted to the Committee in September or October 1999.

38. **Mr. Takahara** (Japan) said that his delegation was not sure whether the Committee, by granting the Secretary-General commitment authority of $200 million and deciding to apportion the amount of $125 million among Member States, could be said to have fulfilled its political responsibilities towards the people of Kosovo and of neighbouring States. The Committee, which was a technical body, had taken that action only after it had been placed in a situation in which it had been required to make a decision based on political considerations.

39. His delegation had learned that a decision might have been taken that would have been contrary to the almost unanimous views of Member States. In that sense, the debate had been most instructive and his delegation would bear its principal lesson in mind in the future.

40. **Mr. Ahounou** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that, although the Secretariat had not provided any justification in support of its request, given the urgency of the request, the Committee had been right to grant it. Indeed, as the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had shown, the approach taken by the Secretariat was not without precedent.

41. His delegation deeply regretted the fact that political considerations had prevented the Committee from agreeing upon a draft resolution that reflected the will of the majority. Regrettably, the Committee had taken its decision in an air-conditioned meeting room far removed from the social realities on the ground and had thus acted like the Bretton Woods institutions, which were criticized for taking decisions against the best interests of the developing countries, and of African countries in particular, with little knowledge of the social realities in those countries.

42. Members of the Committee should have more confidence in the Secretariat, which was well aware of the draft resolution's technical implications and should not be viewed as opposing the Committee. The Secretariat should demonstrate a spirit of intellectual honesty and logic and take the same approach to future situations in Africa as the one which it had just taken towards Europe.

43. **Mr. Darwish** (Egypt) said that, although his delegation would have liked to see more information concerning the Mission, to which it attached great importance, given the Mission's complexity and urgency and the need to alleviate the suffering of the people of Kosovo, the approach taken had been the right one.

44. His delegation would have preferred to apportion the total amount requested by the Secretary-General, especially in the light of the explanations provided by the Secretariat

and in view of the needs of troop-contributing countries. It nevertheless trusted that the Secretariat would carry out its duties in a satisfactory manner.

45. **Mr. Sial** (Pakistan) reiterated his delegation's full support for the Mission and for the Secretary-General's request for commitment authority of up to $200 million, which was in keeping with section IV, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A. His delegation had not expected detailed cost estimates for the Mission during the start-up phase and would await the submission by the Secretary-General of the comprehensive report requested in the resolution just adopted.

46. His delegation would have preferred to apportion among Member States the full amount for which commitment authority had been granted and hoped that the failure to do so would not hamper the proper functioning of the Mission. It hoped also that the full budget would be submitted as early as possible and that reimbursements to troop-contributing countries would not be affected.

47. **Ms. Achouri** (Tunisia) welcomed the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution on the sensitive matter of Kosovo, which was at the centre of concern for the international community, international public opinion and the people of Kosovo themselves. The people of Kosovo were expecting emergency assistance from the international community and expected the United Nations to play its proper role under the Charter, particularly with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security.

48. Her delegation had joined the consensus with great reluctance, because it would have preferred the full amount which the Secretary-General had requested to have been apportioned among Member States. Having heard all the arguments concerning the validity of that amount, her delegation appreciated the frankness with which the Secretariat had sought to justify its inability to provide, for the time being, technically sound justifications for its request for commitment authority of up to$200 million. It agreed with the Secretariat that the request had been made out of prudence in order to avoid any delay in the start-up and functioning of the Mission.

49. She hoped that the $125 million to be apportioned among Member States would indeed be levied and paid as quickly as possible. It was a shame that the amount of $200 million requested by the Secretariat had been rejected because some delegations believed it had no rationale or technical justification, especially since the ad hoc arrangement to apportion the amount of $125 million had absolutely no *raison d'être*.

50. **The Chairman** said that what was important was that the draft resolution had been adopted without a vote. He reminded members of the Committee that in negotiations they represented their countries and should not allow professional disagreements to sour their personal relationships or to erode the spirit of cooperation. If necessary, criticism should be directed to the Chair and to the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.